

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

August 10, 2009

For More Information Contact:

Larry Timm, President

Junior Achievement of Central Illinois

309-258-0828

LTimm@JuniorAchievement.biz

METLIFE FOUNDATION HONORS EIGHT JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT OFFICES FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION

JA of Central Illinois Wins International Award

Peoria/Bloomington, IL – Junior Achievement of Central Illinois has been named a recipient of the 2009 MetLife Foundation Entrepreneurial Award. The winners were announced during JA Worldwide® Celebration Week, July 20-24. Since 2001, the award has recognized JA operations that demonstrate entrepreneurial spirit and innovation in achieving sustainable results for JA's primary stakeholders—students, schools, volunteers, and donors. Each winner receives a cash award of US \$25,000 to expand its work, and JA Worldwide shares its best practices throughout the organization.

“JA Members around the world play a vital role in providing young people with the knowledge, skills, and role models they need to succeed in a global economy,” said Dennis White, president of MetLife Foundation. “We are pleased to join JA Worldwide in honoring JA of Central Illinois for exemplary innovation and entrepreneurship, which is helping to reach more young people and put them on the path to success.”

“Innovation and entrepreneurial thinking drive positive results in our organization and in the business world,” said Sean C. Rush, president and chief executive officer of JA Worldwide. “The winners of this year's awards provide strong role models in demonstrating leadership and creative thinking—skills that JA programs teach thousands of students around the world every day.”

JA of Central Illinois was one of eight winners selected from 70 proposals from 56 Members—the largest number of proposals and JA Member participation in the history of

the program. A panel of judges, including JA Worldwide board members and a MetLife Foundation representative, selected the winners.

The other award recipients are:

- Junior Achievement of Arizona, *Map Your Success*
- Junior Achievement Romania, *Voluntarcenter*
- Junior Achievement China, *JA Our City: Teaching Environmentally Sustainable Business Practices*
- Junior Achievement of San Diego and Imperial Counties, *“I’m Thankful for my Teacher” Campaign*
- Junior Achievement of Georgia, *JA College Pipeline*
- Junior Achievement Korea, *JA Pro V*
- Junior Achievement of Mississippi Valley, *Online Finance Park*

About MetLife Foundation

MetLife Foundation was established in 1976 by MetLife to carry on its longstanding tradition of corporate contributions and community involvement. Grants support health, education, civic and cultural programs. The Foundation has supported JA programs since 1979. In addition to sponsoring the Entrepreneurial Award since 2001, the Foundation has provided major funding for development and implementation of *JA Exploring Economics™*, a program that teaches high school students fundamental economic concepts. For more information about the Foundation, visit www.metlife.org.

About Junior Achievement of Central Illinois

Junior Achievement of Central Illinois is one of the fastest growing JA offices in the United States, and there are 130 JA offices across all 50 states. JA has grown 265% in central Illinois since 2004, and during the 2008-09 school year it reached 13,374 students in 637 classrooms in 5 counties with an experience centered on financial literacy, work readiness, and entrepreneurship via its dedicated volunteer network. For more information, visit www.JuniorAchievement.biz.

About JA Worldwide® (Junior Achievement)

JA Worldwide is the world's largest organization dedicated to inspiring and preparing young people to succeed in a global economy. Through a dedicated volunteer network, JA Worldwide provides in-school and after-school programs for students in grades K-12. JA Worldwide offers educational programs that focus on three key content areas: entrepreneurship, work readiness, and financial literacy. Today, 135 individual area operations reach more than four million students in the United States, with an additional five million students served by operations in 123 other countries worldwide. For more information, visit www.ja.org.